

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**Hearing on “Stakeholder Perspectives on the IANA Transition”**  
**May 13, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

The Internet is one of the most vibrant and dynamic drivers of the economy - both here and across the globe - and this committee has made it a priority to ensure that it will continue to thrive unfettered well into the future. Today the subcommittee takes another look at the future of Internet governance and the proposed transition of IANA oversight from the U.S. government to the multi-stakeholder model.

Last Congress, we advanced the DOTCOM Act as a measure intended to press pause before NTIA relinquishes the United States’ role in overseeing the Internet’s root zone functions. The U.S. has held this important responsibility for many years, and before we take an irreversible leap, we must carefully look at and understand all of the risks and consequences. Last year, we requested that the nonpartisan GAO examine the proposed transition and they will be releasing a report later this year with their findings. Thorough and honest reviews like GAO’s are critical in helping all parties to make the most informed decision possible.

Today’s hearing will show there has been a great deal of work within ICANN, NTIA, and the multi-stakeholder community to come up with a workable proposal that will preserve Internet openness and freedom. I appreciate the effort that has gone into developing a solution, and look forward to hearing more about the proposal in the months to come. However, I want to strongly reiterate the need for Congress to play a role in this transition, and to serve as a watchdog as we move forward.

We are not seeking to prevent this transition, or to delay it for the sake of delay. We are exercising our oversight role over NTIA and ensuring that any successor solution will fit the criteria NTIA has established for a successful transition. We’ve said it time and again, and it bears repeating: the future of the Internet as we know it is at stake if we don’t get this right.

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